

BENT RIM BUGLE



The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #66 - Winter 03-04

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Photo Contest Winners Inside!

ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO

February 1, 2004

Springfield Oaks County Park

Davisburg, MI

Guest Speaker:

Watch the MMBA.org
bulletin board for an
upcoming announcement"

Swap Meet

Buy and sell!!! Bring your
goods and grab a table!
10:00 a.m.

Get a table to sell your stuff for a \$10 tax-
deductible donation to the MMBA!

Awards!!!

Ed Berta/First Across the Finish Line/
State-wide Volunteer of the Year
& Championship Points Series!

Prizes

Get in the Raffle!!
Get in the Raffle!!
Win Incredible Swag!

If you want to
volunteer and help
with annual expo,
contact
Mary Ann Martin,
hollyflint@mmba.org

Annual Winter Ride

*Grab your snow bikes and ride
beautiful Pontiac Lake—9:00am.*

For More information contact: hollyflint@mmba.org or visit www.mmba.org





The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

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Bent Rim Bugle

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Letters/Comments/Submissions

Bent Rim Bugle

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Visit the MMBA on the web, **new and improved site**, for contact information and much more.

www.mmba.org

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DAN HARRISON

The Trail Ahead

president@mmba.org



"After the Moratorium... What?"

Remember that saying, "Be careful what you wish for, you might get it?" Someday soon, we should learn if that's true about the DNR's moratorium on new trails. For several years, projects have been slowed, stalled, even stonewalled, on state land. But there are signs that, even as the ground is starting to freeze for the winter, the mighty moratorium may be thawing.

It will start as a trickle. In response to MMBA's protests that the Pontiac Lake project was cut short before the Master Plan was achieved, the DNR has agreed to make PLRA the first test of the new procedures. Recommended by the Southeast Michigan Trails Action Plan committee, the procedures will call for formal project proposals, meetings, site visits, performance reviews and generally, involvement by district supervisors, planners, land stewards and other officials above the level of the unit manager. We've got two mountains to conquer- one, unfortunately, of paperwork.

For those of us who have been champing at the bit for years, this will be hard to take at first, but it's to be expected, coinciding as it does with the DNR's darkest days in recent memory. Lacking funds, resources and personnel to advance these projects themselves, the Department can't be expected to lightly surrender its mission to an unsupervised posse of eager-beavers with saws and shovels. Yes, we are the public, but the Department holds the land in stewardship for ALL the people of the State of Michigan, and we'll have to learn to play by the new rules.

Fortunately, we saw this coming, and we're ready. For years, the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew has paid regular visits to Michigan, offering their world-famous Trail Building School. Some DNR staff has regularly attended, and come away impressed. Last year, we of the MMBA test-launched our own homegrown version, aimed at producing the key players who take the point position: the Trail Coordinators. The TCs are the visible face of the MMBA to the land managers. Under the new rules, every trail project will begin with a formal proposal, which will cover all aspects of the project from the reason it's needed, to materials, construction standards, budget, environmental impact, user impact, ADA compliance- the list goes on. Bottom line: we can't do business on a handshake any more. Recreational advocacy groups will have to adopt a professional attitude, something which I believe the MMBA can deliver sooner and better than most.

Near the end of the new proposal form are two ominous words: "Maintenance Commitment." The Department wants to know what funding, or volunteers, the organization can deliver in the long run. Again, I feel that's one of the MMBA's strong suits. We pay for our trail access with "sweat equity." Our **First Across the Finish Line (FAFL)** program is the envy of other groups, nationwide. With new construction standards adopted by the DNR from the US Forest Service, the need for a quality workforce raises the bar, but it's nothing we can't handle.

continued on page 4

News from the Executive Director – Todd Scott

Addison Oaks Expanding?

Oakland County is applying for grants to purchase 360 more acres for Addison Oaks. The proposed purchase is directly east of the current park property. This purchase would connect Addison with the Oakland Township park property south of 32 Mile.

Clinton River Trail

The Clinton River Trail now has a brand new bridge over I-75 in Auburn Hills. Rochester Hill's bridge over the Clinton River behind Rochester College is still coming along. It'll be pre-fabricated so it's possible they can work on it through the winter. Hopefully it'll be ready by spring. They're also looking at different trail surfaces, most of which look similar to the Paint Creek's.

Macomb Orchard Trail

The Macomb Orchard Trail will get paved by next spring from Dequindre to 29 Mile Road. Congress recently approved a \$3.7 million appropriation for this trail.

Bike Maps On-line

Oakland County now has an on-line map that shows all the roads, trails, bike routes, parks, and so on. If you zoom enough, you get the information overlaid on the aerial photographs. Also, all of the mountain bike-able trails at the county parks (e.g. Addison), HCMA (Stony), and DNR (e.g. Pontiac Lake) are on the maps as well. It even has a tool for measuring distances between two points on the map. The web site is www.co.oakland.mi.us/ims/trails/viewer.htm. The county is also working on a printed trail map so you won't have to bring a laptop with you on the trail.

Macomb County Trailways

Not to be outdone by Oakland, the folks in Macomb County have started work on a trailways master plan. Their goal is to "Develop a plan that will serve as a guide for a unified and coordinated vision for non-motorized transportation planning and development in Macomb County." It's still in the early stages, but MMBA is getting involved. More information is on-line at: www.wadetrail.com/resources/macomb/index.htm

Stony Creek Skills Park

The park recently approved our budgeted expenses for the proposed skills park. We're meeting with the park soon to work out additional details relating to the location and obstacle designs. Also, we met with the City of Madison Heights today and they are showing some interest in doing something similar.

City of Madison Heights

If you are a Madison Heights resident and would be supportive of a bike trail along the Red Run, please contact Todd Scott at execdir@mmba.org. This proposed trail would connect the east edge of Royal Oak to the Metro Parkway bike path.

City of Warren

We've been meeting with the City of Warren to discuss the possibility of putting trails on a couple of their larger (70-100 acre) open space parcels, one being the former GM property. It's still very preliminary but exciting.

I just called the DNR Parks department and got the following numbers. I could only get the numbers over the phone, so I know I missed some parks with or without bikable trails.

FYI: DNR Parks: 2001 Estimated Day Use**

Bald Mountain 357,629
Brighton 137,832
Fort Custer 493,368
Highland 185,032
Holly 114,316
Island Lake 1,017,051
Maybury 376,964
Pinckney 617,326
Pontiac Lake 665,981
Proud Lake 321,305
Waterloo 405,504
Yankee Springs 712,016

**Estimated day use is based on a formula that includes vehicle entries and parking lot usage

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL UPDATE



Left to Right, Todd Scott, Rob Corbett, and Bob Papp meet to discuss the North Country Trail.

NCTA Meeting

In September, I met with Bob Papp, Executive Director and Rob Corbett, Director of Trail Management for the North Country Trail Association (NCTA.) We discussed how the MMBA and NCTA could work together on common issues while agreeing to disagree on their vision to eventually remove bikes from the trail. I was very encouraged by our first official meeting and the potential for some valuable collaboration. They asked me to draft a memorandum of understanding between our two groups. Rob also suggested we conduct trail user surveys for mountain bikers and hikers, asking both what they consider a premier trail experience and what they value on the North Country Trail. I think we all agree that we'll find a great deal of variety yet commonality in the responses. Rob agreed to look into those incorrect signs on the NCT in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. These signs indicate the trail is hiking-only when it's actually open to bikes. Bob is also going to check the trailhead maps that show the Bear Creek Campground spur being closed to bikes. (We don't believe it is.)

I also suggested we work together to add rules of the trail to the trailhead signs, especially the yielding etiquette.

Congressman Oberstar

IMBA recently met with Congressman James Oberstar of Minnesota to discuss the National Park Services policy of not allowing biking on most of the North Country Trail. The NCTA met with the Congressman as well and he encouraged the NCTA to improve communications with mountain bike groups and work together on projects of common interest. According to the NCTA, Congressman Oberstar has a history of being a "staunch supporter of increased funding for the North Country Trail."

NCT Penalties

I was reviewing some national forest information for an MMBA member and found that riding NCT sections not open to bikes is subject to "a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both."

National Forests Update

There are three national forests within Michigan: the Huron-Manistee in Northern Michigan, and the Ottawa and Hiawatha in the Upper Peninsula.

All three of the national forests within Michigan are updating their Forest Plans. These Plans define a vision for how the forests are managed -- including trails, among them, the North Country Trail.

The first step to updating these Plans was to collect public comment earlier this year. From these comments, the Forest Service has created a list of proposed changes to the Forest Plans.

DO THE PROPOSED CHANGES AFFECT MOUNTAIN BIKES?

Definitely! The current Forest Plan is from 1986 before mountain bikes were popular and before there was such a large demand for mountain biking trails.

According to the Forest Service, "The proposed changes are warranted because mountain biking is a legitimate national forest use."

In summary, there are two main changes proposed.

1. "The proposed change is to allow mountain biking on trails unless posted closed (prohibited). As 'new uses occur', the Forests will evaluate as needed and incorporate into the forest Plan."

This is much welcomed news. We don't believe this affects the North Country Trail since it's already clearly posted as open or closed to bikes.

2. "Clarify the purpose and uses of the North Country National Scenic Trail"

This is the change the MMBA needs to watch and be a part of. We were told the Forest Service may have workshops for NCT stakeholders, including the MMBA, in about a year to address this item. And while this clarification is primarily for the Huron-Manistee National Forest, it may also be used for the Hiawatha National Forest in the UP.



Harv Seeley HM action

The above photo won an honorable mention in the 2003 MMBA Mountain Bike Photo Contest. See the winners on page 7 and 8!

The Trail Ahead - continued from page 2

This spring, we will repeat the Trail Coordinator Training (TCT), in a two-day course to be held at Hansen Hills, near Grayling. Participants will hone their skills by assessing, planning, and implementing enhancements that will prepare the trail for this summer's inaugural Mountain Bike Fest. Also this spring, FAFL volunteers will get a chance to perfect their chops, as we debut a new one-day clinic. "Trail Worker Training" (TWT) will focus on the essential skills used in the field: safe and effective use of tools, clearing the trail corridor, building such key trail structures as benchcuts and grade reversals, and reclaiming old trail.

Watch for updates on time and place, in the "Advocacy" section of the MMBA.org Bulletin Board. If you've been muttering curses at that washed-out switchback, or that unbuilt tech loop, the time has come to channel that energy. Between now and the spring workdays is the ideal time to schedule the advance work: meetings, proposal-drafting and other necessary drudgery of course. But it's also the perfect time to walk in the forest with the leaves down and the lay of the land exposed. Maybe the trail will be covered with snow, giving you that proverbial "clean sheet of paper" to visualize the ideal layout. Imagine the possibilities.

Don't Mess with Pontiac Lake!

by Todd Scott

Two influential people recently contacted Senator Deborah Cherry and asked for her support in getting the DNR to lease the entire Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area to Oakland County for 50 years.

Jody Delavern (MMBA Pontiac Lake Chapter President) and I met with Senator Cherry in late October along with many other park groups and convinced her that selling off or changing Pontiac Lake was not a good idea.

HOW IT BEGAN

Ten days earlier we'd heard a rumor that the DNR was looking to sell Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area (PLRA) to Oakland County Parks (OCP). We contacted OCP and confirmed that they were indeed in the very early stages of discussing this idea. The strange part was we'd spoken with them months ago and they said OCP didn't see the benefit to them having Pontiac Lake.

We immediately filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the DNR and Natural Resources Commission requesting all documents on potential park sales, leases or exchanges. We needed to know if this was a Pontiac-only situation or something much larger. The recent failure of the PILT (payment in-lieu of taxes) reform seemed like suitable motivation. (Thankfully our FOIA results showed that no other DNR parks were on the butcher block.)

Next we contacted a local DNR person who knew nothing of the deal, nor did their supervisor. Apparently the DNR was not the one pushing this proposal.

WHY LEASE PONTIAC LAKE?

As we began to learn, this situation arose from some folks (including former State Rep. Mike Kowall) involved with the Quake on the Lake hydroplane race that's held at Pontiac Lake. Apparently they are frustrated with the DNR for not waiving the park entry fees, having an exclusive food concessionaire at the park, and more. They want the park leased to the County, where they'd have more freedom to run their event as they desire. The Lion's Club hosts the event and it certainly doesn't hurt that L. Brooks Patterson is an active member.

We also suspect that there are two other motivations lurking in the background. First, the County wants to expand the airport, which requires acquiring more DNR land. (I've been told an expanded runway means the PLRA beach would then become part of the designated crash zone.) Second, there has been discussion and tentative plans to continue Williams Lake Road north of Gale Road directly through the park. This would mean a sizeable loss of parkland as well as more road noise.

WHERE IT STANDS NOW

We met with Senator Cherry, representing mountain biking interests at Pontiac Lake. Other groups at the meeting included the MUCC, Oakland County Sportsmen's Association, a property owners group, a couple equestrian groups, the model airplane group and others.



Senator Deb Cherry and Pontiac Lake Chapter President Jody Delavern. Photographer: Todd Scott

The consensus was unanimous: Don't mess with Pontiac Lake because a weekend event has issues with the DNR.

Senator Cherry said from the start that she wouldn't support a lease if the community opposes it and she acknowledged that lack of support.

We've also met with the head of OCP, Ralph Richard. Ralph said the preliminary decisions would not make any drastic

changes to the park nor eliminate any current uses. The only changes discussed so far include moving the park entrance to Williams Lake Road and possibly moving the shooting range. Ralph also vowed to keep the MMBA involved if they do decide to proceed forward.

There are two possible decision breakers for the County. First, the DNR pays property taxes to local communities and school districts. Oakland County is unwilling to assume those payments for Pontiac Lake. Second is the entire park pass issue. Many state park pass holders don't want to purchase another pass nor would it be right for OCP to charge more for non-county residents.

The DNR isn't convinced this is a good idea despite the possible cost savings.

The MMBA also made the front page of Oakland Press in early November with a story detailing this issue. We'll continue to stay involved and ensure that our investments in the PLRA trails are secured.

What is the DNR Trail Moratorium?

Q. I hear a lot about this moratorium, but what exactly is it?

A. The DNR Parks Bureau has a moratorium on new trail construction in State Parks and State Rec. Areas. Trail maintenance and re-routes are not prohibited by the moratorium. The moratorium affects all trail user groups.

Q. Why a moratorium?

A. Originally DNR Parks did not have statewide guidelines for new trail approval, design, development, or maintenance. (DNR Forests did, by the way.) Instead, DNR Parks left these decisions to the local park managers, which produced some great trails and some not-so-good trails. There was also an increasing demand from many user groups for many more trails. There was concern that the current configuration was prone to getting out of hand.

In response, DNR Parks decided to develop statewide guidelines. They stopped the approval of new trails, had meetings with stakeholders (e.g. MMBA), formed a committee, and developed the first phase of guidelines. The committee chair recommended that a demo trail project be put through the new process to work out the kinks prior to lifting the moratorium.

Q. Is the MMBA submitting a demo trail project?

A. Yes. We suggested the new Northeast trail segment at Pontiac Lake. The DNR liked the idea and has supplied us with the necessary applications to complete before January of 2004.

Q. When is the moratorium going to be lifted?

A. Most of us, including some within the DNR expected the moratorium to be lifted in late 2002. It's been dragging on in large part due to a lack of money and manpower in DNR Parks. In 2003 a majority of their upper-management took early retirement, they lost half of their budget, and employees are now getting forced time off. The person in charge of this trail project also handles all the facilities development (e.g. buildings, trails, roads, etc.) at 16 state parks, state boat docks, and a state harbor - in addition to developing the new state park planned for the Detroit River.

Q. What's the MMBA doing now?

A. First, we're submitting a new trail proposal for Pontiac Lake. Second we've requested a list of steps and a timeline to end the moratorium. Our request was on behalf of the MMBA and the Michigan Horse Council. The MMBA has been patient to this point but can't wait around forever.

Q. Are DNR Forest trails affected by the moratorium?

A. No, this moratorium is for trails within the DNR Parks Bureau. However, new DNR forest pathways are not being approved until there's funding to cover the trail operating costs. In the past these costs were covered by diverting camping fees. As the forest campgrounds began to suffer the loss of funding, this policy was changed. The MMBA hopes to initiate some permanent funding solutions, though we are only in the early stages of planning.



A letter about the work at Pontiac Lake

Dear MMBA,

I must commend you on your work on this issue. You are always amazing our club and me. You continue to be a great benchmark for muscle powered clubs across the United States.

Thank you for your hard work and setting an example.

Mark Farmer

Central Ohio Mountain Bike Organization

Keep your feet warm this winter!

The best option is to purchase some oversized winter biking shoes or closeout bike shoes. Roughly every size you go up lets you wear an extra sock. You want to block the wind at the outermost layer. Booties work best for that or you can get by with a Lake winter boot, which has no ventilation. A simple option for ventilated shoes is to put duct tape over the mesh openings.

For short rides (e.g. an hour), you can get by with simply blocking the wind and wearing an extra sock or two.

For longer rides, you need to deal with your foot's perspiration. If you have room, pull on a thin liner sock followed by a waterproof layer such as a plastic bag or vapor barrier sock. The bags should not collect sweat as your feet only perspire until they reach 70% humidity. Wear your normal insulating sock over the vapor barrier. Why the vapor barrier? There are three reasons. First, escaping perspiration will dampen your insulating layers, making them significantly less effective. Second, the perspiration process is endothermic and draws heat from your feet. Third, if you use chemical warmers, they really don't work once they get damp.

My warmest foot arrangement are some Lake winter boots 4 sizes too large with a liner, vapor barrier sock, wool sock, and fleece sock. I find the fleece doesn't absorb wetness when it contacts snow, which is very beneficial. Of course if you forgo the clipless pedals, you can wear most any boot and stay warmer. PowerGrips makes extra large straps to keep boots attached to pedals. You can also attach cleats to standard winter boots, which I've done with much success. For directions, visit: <http://www.freewheel.com/mvw/shoes.html> - Todd Scott

For general information on winter biking and other clothing tips, visit: www.icebike.com

MMBA - Mountain Bike Photo Contest - 2003



John Fenlon

Best Overall

Results!

Best Overall Photo - John Fenlon - color

Action Photo:

1st place - Samantha Allen - B&W

2nd place - Harv Seeley - color

3rd place - Rob Elliot - color

HM - Harv Seeley - color

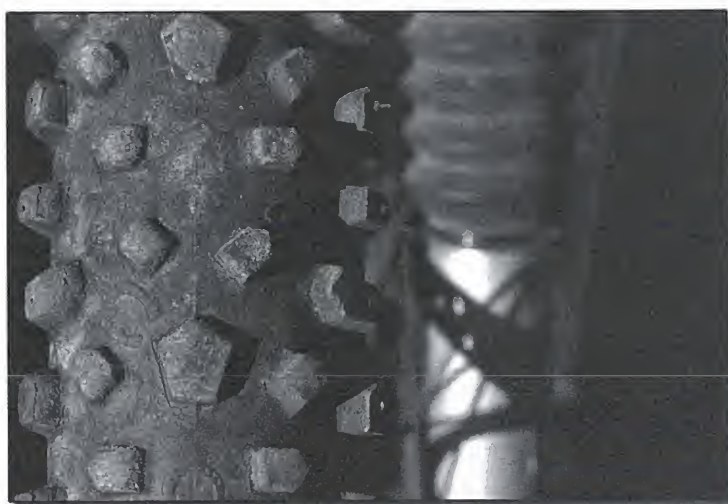
Non-Action Photo:

1st place - Matt McCluskey - color

2nd place - Dale Murray - color

3rd place - Perry Chron - color

These winning photos will be printed and on display at the annual meeting Feb. 1st. The winners will also receive a print of their photo.



Matt McCluskey

1st non-action



Perry Chron 3rd non-action



Samantha Allen

1st action



Rob Elliot

3rd action



Dale Murray

2nd non-action



Harv Seeley

2nd action

MMBA
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

2003 MMBA Championship Point Series

These are the final results from the 2003 MMBA Championship Points Series. Congrats to all the Champions and everyone who came out and raced this year. See you at Yankee springs in April!

Photos by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

<u>Elite</u>	<u>Women</u>		
PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	2020	SCHUBEL, SUSAN
2	2	1436	HENDERSHOT, CHENOAH
3	3	1338	UPTON, LAURA
	4	614	OLSON, CHERYL A
	5	329	WILSON, SHELLEY
	6	105	CATALDO, CRISTIN L

Elite Open

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	1931	SIMONSON, MIKE
2	2	1637	PARKER, JAMIE
3	3	1530	JELLUM, ERIC
4	4	1343	MCWILLIAMS, ALBERT B
5	5	1255	EHMANN, PETER
6	6	948	BRZUCHANSKI, JOSEPH R
7	7	903	BOXRUD, ERIC
8	8	843	CHAMBERS, SCOTT A
9	9	786	DUNN, PAUL
10	10	671	FILIPPIAK, CHRISTOPHER P
11	11	620	BIEREMA, BRYON
12	12	528	O'REILLY, MICHAEL
13	14	405	KUJACZNSKI, LUKE
14	17	286	CROSS, JONATHAN
15	19	185	HENDERSHOT, JOREL
16	20	128	TARRANT, JOSHUA
	13	496	SKELLENGER, PETER
	15	395	JANSEN, DAN
	16	369	OLSON, MARK
	18	247	CESA, ERIC
	21	66	STACK, RON

Elite Men 35+

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	2046	COTTON, ROB
2	2	1659	TOMPKIN, ERIC
3	3	1643	LUCZYNSKI, DAVE
4	4	1421	KEENIHAN, JIM
5	5	1251	NOONAN, RICK
6	6	1156	GODDARD, CHRIS
7	7	691	OSTROWSKI, ARTUR
	8	484	BARTOS, MICHAEL D
	9	479	FENLON, JOHN
	11	356	GARDULSKI, MIKE
	10	406	JAMES, JIM
	12	205	SCHARPHORN, NIEL



Mike Simonson



Susan Schubel

Expert Women

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	946	FLOOD, CORI
2	2	851	BUERMAN, ANNA
3	3	786	SHELLENBERGER, LAUREN
4	4	780	COTTON, LISA
5	5	677	FORD, LIBBY
	6	456	MUSTO, DANIELLE
	7	226	GROFVERT, ANNE
	8	210	CLARK, MELISA
	9	78	COX, AMY A
	10	49	JOHNSON, KRIS

Expert Men -19

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	1051	RENKEMA, BEN
2	2	943	STEWART, SCOTT
3	3	878	HALL, PETE
4	4	751	RAPHAEL, ADAM
5	5	743	BEST, MICHAEL
6	6	400	WHITLEY, STEVEN
7	7	322	CROSS, RYAN
	8	44	RENNER, SCOTT

Expert Men 20-29

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	914	CHEELY, MATTHEW
2	2	900	VAN HECK, BRIAN
3	3	880	DESILETS, JUSTIN
4	4	862	HEMINGWAY, GUS
5	5	775	BEST, DAVID
6	6	688	BUDACKI, JOEL
7	7	391	WITMER, CHRIS
8	8	284	MORDUS, MARK
9	11	209	COATES, JOHN
	9	249	HORTON, BART
	10	231	OBBERMAN, MARK
	12	208	BOWERMAN, STEVE
	13	60	FRISBIE, BRIAN
	14	50	HILBRANDT, MICHAEL A

Expert Men 30-39

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	1003	CHARLES, STEPHEN
2	2	1003	BRYER, GILES D
3	3	940	HAUSLER, ROBERT
4	4	835	FLORY, KEN
5	5	642	SHELLENBERGER, DAVID
6	6	635	GAFFNER, MATTHEW
7	7	634	RICE, CRAIG J
8	8	626	COLFLESH JR, JIM R
9	9	537	HERSBERGER, TONY
10	10	467	HARRIS, BRIAN
11	11	409	KLINKMAN, THOMAS
12	12	396	BLISS, BILL
13	13	393	ZELAZNY, SCOTT
14	14	329	ERSPAMER, DARREN
15	15	290	MILES, MIKE
16	16	275	KOTWICKI, DAN
17	17	208	GARLAND, ERIK
18	18	200	WONNACOTT, ROB
19	19	186	PARTRIDGE, JOSEPH
20	20	183	TRYON, JEFFERY C
21	21	156	GRASL, TOM
22	22	151	MALZAHN, ERIC
	24	115	WERNER, ERIC M
	23	132	COOK, WAYNE
	26	10	MORRIS, JEFFREY
	27	4	GOTTSCHALK, EDWARD J
	28	3	WITTBRODT, JEFFREY
	29	3	AUGUGLIARO, JOHN BRUCE
	30	2	DUTCZAK, ED

Expert Men 40-49

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	1099	HAYWARD, BRUCE
2	2	763	STEURER, SCOTT
3	3	737	STEWART, CALVIN
4	4	716	GALLAGHER, JAMES
5	5	659	HOLLIS, DAVID
6	6	575	PICKETT, CRAIG
7	7	556	TRIPP, LEWIS
8	8	527	GUYMER, RANDY
9	9	484	DYKSTRA, STEVE
10	10	480	VOLANT, BOB
11	11	445	LIETZ, STEVEN P
12	12	403	WEBB, CRAIG S
13	13	374	MARTIN, JAMES P
14	14	352	MULLEN, JON
15	15	323	BAILEY, PAUL M
16	16	275	RYTLEWSKI, PAUL G
17	20	212	ROE, GORDON F
18	21	200	MAGNUSON, SCOT
	17	234	RIEGE, KEITH
	18	231	BOWER, GREG
	19	220	FABER, JEFF

22	130
23	82
24	29
25	17
26	13

WOJTALA, JOHN
FAVATA, PETE
GIAFAGLEONE, MICHAEL
MARTIN, JAMES A
REGAN SR, CHRIS

Expert Men 50+

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
1	1	1048

NAME
BUCKALEW, CHUCK

Single Speed

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
1	1	563
2	2	488
3	3	453
4	4	429
	5	154
	6	83
	7	73
	8	50
	8	50
	10	25
	11	2

NAME
WELLISLEY, BARTHOLOMEW J
SCHARPHORN, NIEL
NEUMANN, RICHARD
LAROE, KEVIN
KROL, FRANK
SIMONS, ROBERT O
WERNER, ERIC M
IDDINGS, GREGG
SCOTT, TODD
PAQUETTE, KEVIN
RENNER, SCOTT

Sport Clydesdale

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
1	1	539
2	2	443
3	3	374
4	4	345
5	5	335
6	6	292
7	7	253
8	8	197
	9	84
	10	25

NAME
HUBBARD, DANIEL L
MCCREERY, MICHAEL P
PISKE, DALE D
GUDENAU, JEFF
CROSS, CASEY
CALLAHAN, KEVIN
BURT, JOHN
TOMPKINS, DANIEL
FLACK, MIKE
LINKE, MICHAEL

Sport Women -19

No Racers

Sport Women 20-29

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
1	1	518
2	2	365
3	3	351
	4	148

NAME
MANNING, SARAH
MILLER, KARA M
CARLIN, SHELLEY
HOYE, CASSANDRA

Sport Women 30+

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
1	1	535
2	2	492
3	3	468
4	4	356
5	5	280
6	6	273
7	7	272
8	8	225
9	10	108

NAME
MARTIN, LINDA
ZELAZNY, JULIANNE
GREEN-SHRIFT, KELLY
DELAVERN, JODY
FENDER, JANET
SEGEDI, JOYCE
KING, KAREN A
VANDER BERG, VALERIE
JARSKI, LAURIE A

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10	12	93	BIELECKI, LYNN	23	14	TORNGA, SHAWN
	9	174	ASH, CAROLYN	24	7	AURAND, CHRIS P
	11	107	RUIZ, LILLIAN	25	4	DRAZBA, JOHN
	13	74	HAUPTMANN, MARTINA	Sport Men 30-34		
	14	47	SCURR, SHARI L	PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
	15	12	BLANKENBURG, DONNA			NAME
Sport Men -14				1	1	583
PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME	2	2	532
1	1	504	MCBRIDE, ZACH	3	3	492
2	2	490	STANGE, KYLE	4	4	432
3	3	406	WOOD, TOREY	5	5	416
4	4	386	CULBERTSON, SETH	6	6	403
5	5	290	STARLING, DAVID	7	7	389
6	6	253	WARBASSE, LAWRENCE K	8	8	385
	7	208	APPEL, RAFFI	9	9	352
Sport Men 15-19				10	10	338
PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME	11	11	334
1	1	545	WORKMAN, MICHAEL	12	12	321
2	2	525	BUERMAN, RYAN	13	13	290
3	3	462	DREYER, DERRICK	14	14	268
4	4	399	HOGAN, CURT	15	15	170
5	5	367	BENSON, BRENDAN	16	16	132
6	6	342	REGAN JR, CHRIS	17	22	52
7	7	282	DETRAY, CHRIS		18	95
8	8	279	LAROE, KOREY		19	76
9	9	210	FRISBIE, ERIK		20	73
10	10	194	STEERS, BRIAN		17	101
11	11	172	KELLER, ANDREW		23	46
	12	139	SHANNON, JESSE		21	55
	13	120	LINKE, ALEX		24	38
	14	106	FABER, JUSTIN		25	27
	15	43	RIVARD, JUSTIN		26	21
Sport Men 20-29					27	19
PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME		28	17
1	1	589	BOWNE, JASON		29	9
2	2	507	KINLEY, JASON		30	3
3	3	487	HARTMAN, ERIC R		30	3
4	4	405	CERGET, JEFFREY A		32	1
5	5	398	HENRICKS, ERIC A	Sport Men 35-39		
6	6	392	PENGRA, FORREST	PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS
7	7	353	COLSON, JOHN R			NAME
8	8	328	DERUBEIS, TONY	1	1	549
9	9	195	CACHERO, JEFF	2	2	508
10	10	165	ELLISTON, DAVID M	3	3	450
11	12	120	FEDEWA, ANDREW	4	4	421
12	13	111	BROWN, JEFF	5	5	399
	11	121	WOLANEYK, MATT	6	6	363
	14	76	WOON, JUMIAN	7	7	286
	15	64	EDWARDS, KEVIN	8	8	262
	16	48	BIALK, BRIAN	9	9	251
	17	42	SWEITZER, MATTHEW	10	11	210
	18	41	MILLER III, DONALD	11	13	174
	19	39	DANIC, DANIEL	12	14	150
	20	20	FELL JR, DANIEL	13	16	104
	20	20	PEOT, ANDREW	14	19	91
	22	14	IRWIN II, JOHN		10	250
					12	180
						NAME
						DART, LEE
						JOHNSON, GREG
						VICHINSKY, KEVIN
						STENZEL, CORY A
						KONOPKA, THOMAS P
						SIETING, TODD
						KOHLMANN, TED
						TODD, MARK
						RUSSELL, PATRICK
						ROMAIN, JAMES
						BARRY, NICHLAS T
						PAQUETTE, KEVIN
						GRAY, STEVE
						SIPE, KENNETH W
						HEFT, JON
						MANNING, MATTHEW
						TALIA, VINCE
						MITCHELL, CRAIG
						LENTING, DAVID M
						BRACKEN, GEORGE
						WAGNER, JAMES M
						FRAKER, MARK C
						GIDDIS, BRIAN
						JARDINE, JASON
						HECKMAN, PHIL
						HUTCHISON, ROGER
						GRIFFIN, MATT E
						WOLDRING, DAVE
						CLAY, SEAN
						AKERS, JUSTIN O
						MERRITT, DOMINIQUE
						SCHAMS, JEFFREY J

15	122	COLE, MARK D
17	92	FULSHER, JOE
17	92	JUNKIN, CRAIG
20	68	BIGSBY, IAN
21	51	OUELLETTE, RICHARD
21	51	WHITACRE, DONALD
23	40	CHIADO, MIKE
24	38	LEIKERT JR, JAMES A
25	8	BARNES, CHARLES
26	1	BLANKENBURG, TAD

Sport Men 40-44

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	607	CURTIS, TIMOTHY S
2	2	600	ROTH, FRANK A
3	3	519	BIRMANN, MIKE
4	4	402	TINGLEY, ALAN
5	5	336	SOUTHWELL, GREG
6	6	261	KAHL, KEVIN L
7	7	252	MORAN, MARK
8	8	235	CRANDELL, MIKE
9	9	214	SNYDER, HAROLD
10	10	173	SPAULDING, JOHN
11	11	168	PEAY, JOSHUA
12	15	78	MILLER JR, DONALD J
13	16	77	MURPHY, DENNIS B
14	23	35	SEGEDI, JOHN
	12	106	GUYNN, JOHN
	13	98	GOSEN, DAN
	14	81	HUGHES, ROBERT
	17	65	POTTER, PATRICK L
	18	54	MITCHELL, GEORGE C
	19	48	CUTHBERT, RON
	20	44	BUERMAN, JEFF
	21	39	GIAFAGLEONE, MICHAEL
	22	38	TURNER, BRIAN
	24	29	CLARK, STEVE
	25	18	CROWTHER, DAVID
	26	10	PARKER, BRIAN
	27	6	WEAK, GARY

Sport Men 45-49

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	561	KARBOWSKI, GREG
2	2	559	LINDHOUT, BILL
3	3	543	HALLWOOD, MATT
4	4	522	KINLEY, STEVE
5	5	464	HALL, MARTIN
6	6	403	SZUBIELAK, PATRICK
7	7	203	ROODVOETS, TIM
8	8	183	JEFFERS, DENNIS E
9	10	155	KEANE, VIN
10	11	120	STARLING, KEN
11	14	83	BEST, MARK
	9	177	ELDEN, JOSEPH G
	12	117	JOHNSON, NICKOLAS C
	15	78	TOMASSONI, JIM
	16	68	STEVENS, MARK D

13	90	KAUFFMAN, MICHAEL S
17	48	MURPHY, THOMAS F
18	36	BOWMAN, ROBERT R
19	28	MCCLELLAND, KEVIN D
20	17	BUDDY, MARK
21	0	BAKER, ROBERT
21	0	LOVETT, R C
21	0	PLUTA, JAKE
21	0	SCHMID, JIM
21	0	WEDEL, MICHEL
21	0	YACUB, JAMES

Sport Men 50-59

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	529	MASSEY, DENNIS
2	2	418	WATT, WESLEY
3	3	283	FRISBIE, RAY
4	4	238	TOWNSEND, J AVERILL
	5	155	SKURKA, JOSEPH
	6	131	KELLER, RICHARD
	7	67	WISMER, JOHN
	8	44	POIRIER, DAVE
	9	34	SWAIN, CHARLES D
	10	28	NEEDHAM, MICHAEL J

Sport Men 60+

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	422	RICE, LAVERN A
	2	121	PATTON, CLIF & DAVE
	3	108	VANDECAR, DENNY
	4	0	CLINARD, RAY F
	4	0	SPANIOLO, MIKE

Tandem

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	480	CONNOR, DAVID M
2	2	473	SCURR, ROBIN A
3	3	374	MILLER, JOEL

Beg Clydesdale

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	284	TURNER, RUSS
2	2	273	FITZGERALD, JOHN
3	3	233	TAYLOR, JAMES
4	4	125	CIENKI, KEVIN
	5	47	JAWOR, RAY
	6	34	VLAD, DOUGLAS

Beg Women -14

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	248	HENDERSHOT, KETURA
2	2	215	WOOD, AMBER
	3	29	BRODEUR-BUNKER, MORGAN
	4	21	IDDINGS, BRIANNA
	5	0	SMITH, ELLEN

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Beg Women 15-29

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	137	THAYER, JESSICA
	2	87	STEPNIAK, SYLVIA
	3	40	DOMINICK, TAMMY

Beg Women 30+

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	268	HALLWOOD, TERESA
2	2	247	FINCH, SHIRLEE
3	3	86	BORGESON, SUSAN T
	4	73	REDER, MARY
	5	39	OUELLETTE, LAURA
	6	28	LAMEE, LINDA

Beg -10

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	274	DUTCZAK, MICHAEL
2	2	244	ROTH JR, FRANK

Beg Men 11-14

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	348	ZAWISZA, ADAM
2	2	269	MURPHY, BRENDEN
3	3	257	STANGE, CORY
4	4	245	HARPER, RYAN
5	5	212	KRONENBERG, RAFAEL
6	6	208	BIRMANN, TAYLOR
7	7	182	CRISSMAN, HENRY
8	8	172	MULLEN, EZRA
9	9	150	BENSON, BLAINE
10	11	75	WASSERMANN, ZACH
	10	148	BRAVEHEART, GABRIEL
	12	40	HOCKEY, TYLER
	13	31	MADION, MATTHEW
	14	23	BRODEUR-BUNKER, DARCY
	15	2	LAROE, AARON
	16	0	CHRON, ROB
	16	0	GRASL, BRADLEY
	16	0	SCHMID, MICHAEL

Beg Men 15-19

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	119	BEADLE, BRIAN
2	2	116	AFTON, NICK
	3	73	TYSON, JEFF
	4	39	RENNER, RAY THOMAS
	5	29	ICKES, JEFFREY
	6	27	BARLACH, DAN
	7	23	GRACHECK, CHRISTOPHER
	8	16	GRACHECK, PETER

Beg Men 20-29

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	278	ARNOTT, REID
2	2	261	BREYER, MICHAEL
3	3	223	SYPNIEWSKI, DAN
4	4	132	GATTO, DOUGLAS

5	5	117	KELLY, JAMES
6	7	79	MELLEN, TAD
	6	103	GUYER, AARON
	8	71	GURSKY, MARK
	9	51	PAYNE, KEVIN
	10	47	WEJROCH, JEREMY
	11	26	TEWKSBUURY, JEFF
	12	11	BARAN, MATTHEW
	13	7	BELL, RYAN

Beg Men 30-34

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	302	VEGA, MARCO
2	2	302	HIBBS, ROBERT
3	3	258	FORREST, JAMIE
4	4	204	FIEDLER, MARK
5	5	161	LEWERENZ, JIM
6	7	73	GILLEN, BRIAN
7	9	57	KISH, KEVIN A
8	10	56	SCHNEIDER, TIMOTHY
	6	88	AUSTIN, JOHN
	8	65	KENNEY, DARYL
	11	35	POULTER, GREGORY
	12	32	VANSTELLE, DUANE
	13	26	HAZEL, CHAD
	14	12	ROBERG, MARK

Beg Men 35-39

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	289	SNYDER, CHARLES G
2	2	162	VANDER BERG, JEFF
3	3	136	RAYMOND, TIMOTHY M
4	5	124	SEMON, DAVID
5	6	121	RIOS TORRES, JUAN A
6	7	119	SCHODOWSKI, GARY
	4	126	BADE, DAVE
	8	114	PARKER, GREG
	9	70	EMMER, TONY
	10	35	HERNANDEZ, TOM
	11	33	MIR, HAMID
	12	26	KOSKI, DEVIN
	13	10	RYAN, THOMAS

Beg Men 40-49

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	299	HOGAN, CLARK
2	2	287	MACIOSZEK, EDWARD
3	3	283	COLLIE, JAMES M
4	4	226	MOSS, MIKE D
5	5	208	BAUER, DENNIS I
6	6	100	LIND, LLOYD
7	7	85	BORGESON, DAVID W
	8	57	GRAVES, GREGG
	9	24	WARREN, DOUGLAS R

Beg Men 50+ results on page 15

A Beautiful Saturday Morning

(or Smelling My Way Along The North Country Trail on My Singlespeed)
By Dennis Bean-Larson

On a warm Saturday morning last summer, my friend Ross Hickman and I, drove up to Harbor Springs (Thaaah-Haaah-Baaah they say up there, noses stuck-up in the air). We went to ride the North Country Trail, a section we'd never ridden before. We met at 7AM in Almira, had breakfast at the Petoskey Big-Boy, and get to Trailhead #1, near Conway, at a quarter to nine. We were planning to ride to Trailhead #5 and back, a total of thirty miles - all singletrack, though how gnarly or tame we had no idea. We filled Camelbacks and pedaled out under warming temperatures and a sunshine that had nearly burned through some light lingering fog.

It's a nice footpath starting there, plenty wide enough but washed-out sandy - it's been pretty well traveled, bikers, hikers, probably a few horses too, but fortunately no telltale signs of twist-grip motor-cycles. One half mile and the trail started up, and up, and up, and well... I should tell you that I had recently converted my mountain bike to a single-speed. I took off all that unnecessary garbage: ugly shifters, sticky derailers, rusty cables, and all that junk is back in a box at Marsh Road. But, while riding singletrack in and around the VASA is fine with just one gear (34x17), when the trail goes up for three-quarters of a mile I find it a bit challenging to stand the whole way - especially since we're not really warmed up yet. Needless to say, we were well warmed up by the time we got to the top. Hey, this trail is coool man! Northern Michigan singletrack, lots of roots, a few rocks here and there, northern hardwoods, up and down - yahoo!!

Six miles or so to Trailhead #2, and two more to #3, some wet lowlands, some plank bridges, high ridges, up-hills and downs, just great singletrack. What a beautiful morning - I strip off my undershirt and Ross his vest. It's warm, it's sunny, we couldn't ask for more! Here's Trailhead #3, and now we're dumped out on a gravel road and we follow the blue paint on trees, some fence-posts, and now telephone poles past some homes to Pleasantview Road. Across and up the road 1/4 mile, there are two markers, watch carefully now, wait, right there, look, the trail turns off the pavement back onto soggy lowland single-track.

"Whoa! What's that smell?" I ask Ross.

"Geez, I don't know, some kind o'weeds?"

We wonder. It's swampy here, the trail is low and our tires make a sucking sound as we ride on a ribbon of trail past dangling berry branches, the kind that scratch the hell out of your arm if you're not careful- and yes, both of my forearms get totally raked. The blood from my well-pumped body flows grotesquely down both arms - my badge of courage, my mountain biker's tattoo.

"Hey, there's that smell again."

We ride away from the marsh, snaking our way up a valley to the ridge ahead on a gnarly root-tangled trail, shady in the fall sunlight and loose with rocky soils, a place where Ross (with all those damn gears) can simply ride away from me. We roll down the other side, fingers cramped from braking, eyes darting from rock to root, sharp corner with big rock, down to the bottom and....Hey! Watch your arms. There's more pricklers, and.....

"There's that smell again!"

Must be some kind of fragrant weed - it's a woodsy smell, not putrid, not fresh like flowers, not like pines, not a smell I can remember either.

"And damn, now what's this?"

Logging. Skidder tracks. An empty Marlboro box. An empty Twinkie wrapper. Tree slashings. Maples shattered. Earth churned. Can't they just leave these trees alone? Then.... I think of soft clear maple flooring and I maybe understand. But why so much? And why, right here, on this trail. Why wreck my beautiful Sunday morning? We walk our bikes, we carry our bikes, and we climb over fallen trees. We piss and moan. We curse the loggers. It's maybe a half-mile, but not knowing how far it goes makes it seem like forever. Ah, here's some trail that's fit to ride, hop on and make a mental note to write the DNR and say how crappy a job these logger-maniacs are doing. And, here's Trailhead # 4!

"Ross? How many miles on your computer anyway?"

Gee-Zuz, we've got four more miles and then fifteen more back to the car. Man, this single gear is kickin' my ass, not much snap left in these legs, I done left that snap back on the trail somewhere.

Hey, there are three cars parked here, and some bike tracks, they're headed towards #5, and we'll need to watch for them coming back. Hey cool, we'll see somebody on the trail! We're nearly to #5, picking our way carefully down another rocky, rooted path and we yield the trail to the uphill riders - breathing hard - first a woman, then a man, both older, our age, in their fifties maybe older, they're hammerin', they smile, whew, hello, whew, nice day, whew.

"Three more comin" they say.

We pick up a bit of speed and keep our eyes peeled (where did that saying come from anyway?) another half mile and we meet the other three, one guy, two gals, we howdy and remark about the beautiful day again. They know it too. We all smile. It's quite a morning. Then, in a flash, after a traverse through a red pine plantation, we arrive at #5, fifteen miles done, fifteen more to the car, my ass is hurting. I remember driving home from our cottage in my Dad's big Buick after Labor Day - time always seems to go faster on the way home, I've done thirty miles before, many times. Hell, I can ride all day, gimme that trail. I swallow a Clif bar in two bites, take a swig from my Camelback, and we're off, We wonder if we'll be able to catch those other riders, we doubt it; they've got too much of a lead. We try.

True to those childhood memories, the time flies faster on our return and soon here's #4, and those five folks are still there, putting bikes on cars and no doubt reliving the morning's adventures just like we soon will. We stop and exchange a more formal howdy.

"Where you from?" they ask.

"TC and Central Lake", we reply.

"We're from right here."

We tell them about the logging, they hadn't ridden that part, it was still beyond.

"Oh, yeah," they say, "the bear hunters were really pissed-off about the logging; guess they've started cutting, eh?"

"The bear hunters?" we ask.

"Oh, sure that next section has lots of bears...you can smell 'em sometimes", they say. Ross and I look at each other.

"Smell 'em? ... Was that that smell?"

"Holy crap!"

And speaking of crap, was that bear crap on the trail? We'd thought it was horse crap, it was a big pile, like two gallons, a foot high, we rode around it.

"How big are these bears anyway?" we're sounding like a couple of freaking' tourists now.

"Oh they're not big - two hundred pounds, two fifty maybe, we see some a couple times a year".

Continued on page 19

Mira's Iceman - Well Slush Cup - Three year olds first Iceman weekend!

By Craig Emenaker:

As the start of the 2003 Iceman drew nearer, I felt a familiar feeling of nervous anxiety drawing over me. A familiar feeling, but for entirely different reasons.

In previous years (this was my 5th Iceman weekend), this anxiety stemmed from various training- and component-related questions that I pondered myself, and discussed with other serious mountain biking friends prior to the race. What is the weather forecast looking like? What is the right amount of clothing to wear to prevent overheating, or freezing on the side of the trail? Should I use full-knob or semi-slick tires? How can I shave precious minutes from my previous year's time? Should I try to climb all of the hills, or conserve energy by dismounting and doing the hike-a-

bike thing up the larger ones? What if I have to go to the bathroom after the start gun is fired? That would cost me precious seconds... maybe a minute or more if I'm slow about things.

This year, none of those things mattered. Instead, I was nervous about riding in my first Slush Cup race...with my 3-year-old daughter Mira stoking for me on the back of our mountain tandem. She has been excited about riding in "the Iceman" (Slush Cup) for more than six months, but will she be able to handle the full 8-mile course? Will she stay warm enough? Should I put some hand warmers in her mittens? What if she just decides that she is done halfway through the race? A pair of timing chains keeps her pedaling in sync with daddy, so she doesn't have the luxury of coasting if she gets tired (unless I do, of course). What if she has to go to the bathroom?

My concerns were pretty much unjustified. Mira did great in her first race, and I couldn't be more proud of her! We did stop a couple of times for her to rest and get a drink from her kid-sized CamelBak (she couldn't get a grip on the hose with her bulky lobster claw mittens). She also rested as I pushed the bike up a couple of the steeper hills.



Some of the memorable quotes from Mira during the race were:

"Weeeeeeeeeeeeeee." (yelled while riding down most of the big hills)

"Daddy, I'm going to close my eyes so the snow doesn't get in them." (On a faster downhill in heavy snowfall a couple miles into the race.)

Mira: "Daddy, I'm tired of riding fast".

Me: "OK Mira, we'll take it easy and ride slow."

Mira: "I'm tired of riding slow, too." (~6.5 miles in...)

"Even my bottom is tired." (~ 1/2 mile from the finish line)

Any fatigue she felt late in the race seemed to disappear once we got into the final ribboned-off portion of the course, and she could hear the Finish Line announcer. As we crossed the Finish Line, all of my focus was on the people cheering...for Mira.



Beg Men 50+

PLACE	OVERALL	POINTS	NAME
1	1	297	HAUSMANIS, HARRY
2	2	259	SZUBIELAK, BILL
3	3	190	KLOECKNER, MICHAEL
4	4	138	FROELICH, DENNIS
5	5	121	HASLITT, JERRY
	6	96	DUTHIE, SCOTT

Western Chapter News

The western chapter ended the season with 160 active members. Eight members will be honored at the MMBA Annual Expo for reaching ten or more volunteer hours for the year. Chapter members compiled a total of 390 volunteer hours.

The chapter members would like to thank Jeff Schams for his efforts as chapter secretary for the last two years. Jeff would like to step aside and let someone else take the reigns of that position for the next year. Thanks Jeff.

Chapter members worked with Mid-state volunteers to shore up a switchback at Ionia State Rec Area. Craig Emanaker has been working with Allendale Township on recreational trails in that community, and efforts and communication continue with Kent County to implement a mountain bike trail in the county park system.

The western chapter will once again host the inaugural CPS race at Yankee Springs with Tailwind Enterprises on April 18, 2004. Thanks go out to John Haffenden and his crew for the eighty seven hours of trail maintenance and 140 plus hours of volunteer time to make last years' Yankee Springs Time Trial a success.



A stunt at Hickory Glen Park.

Southeast Chapter News

New Trail! Hickory Glen Park in Commerce Township

Directions: If you exit I-96 at Novi road, go north on Novi road. Novi road turns into Decker road with out any warning so just keep going straight until it curves to the left and ends at South Commerce Road. Take a right on South Commerce Road. Go 1 mile, and when you get to the 1st traffic light, take a left on Glengary road. Take Glengary road for 1/2 mile until you get to a yellow sign on the right with a picture of a bike and the words "250 feet". Turn right just after this sign. This is the entrance to Hickory Glen Park. The actual sign for the park isn't visible until you enter the park, so keep your eyes open or you'll miss the park!

Parking for the trailhead is at the baseball field that sits under the large cellular phone tower. Park to the right side of the baseball field, and you'll see the blacktop bike path in front of the dirt parking area. The trailhead is about 50-100 feet to the right just off of the bike path. Yellow arrows and a number 1 will be on the tree that marks the trailhead.



More work at Hickory Glen Park.

The trail at Hickory Glen has been in the works since the summer of 2002. However, it didn't get going real good until the summer of 2003. The fine volunteers from the city of Commerce, and our own MMBA volunteer crews, put together about 4 fresh miles of trail over the summer. The first trail day in the early summer of 2003 saw about 8 volunteers show up, but over the next 6 trail days the numbers volunteering to blaze the new trail grew very quickly. On September 6th the trail day saw 40 people show up to put in about 1.5 miles of new trail in one 4 hour workday! WOW!

The trail now sits at just about 5 miles. If you keep your eyes open you'll see yellow arrows pointing you in the correct direction of the trail loop. The trail makes its way around most of Hickory Glen park now, and at the 4 mile mark you'll find yourself back on the blacktop bike path heading towards the far end of the park. You'll cross over a very nice floating bridge and boardwalk, and just after you are over the boardwalk the trail picks back up on the left. After you finish this small section of trail, you'll be dumped back on to the blacktop bike path. Take the bike path back to the parking lot, or if you prefer to take another loop, the trailhead will be just on the right before you get to your car!

Keep your eyes on the calendar for upcoming trail days at Hickory Glen Park. There are plans to add about another 2-3 miles of trail in the spring of 2004.

Northeast Chapter News

Midland City Forest Singletrack Now Eleven Loopy Miles

With the addition of a new and as yet unnamed three-mile loop, the Midland City Forest mountain bike singletrack is now eleven miles in length. There is far more vertical riding than one might expect from a trail in the flatlands. With dozens of short climbs and descents on the banks of Newell Creek and numerous low ridges, you're guaranteed to break a sweat.

The new three-mile loop was made rideable in just



Log riding in Midland



Work Crew in Midland.

two Sunday afternoon work parties in October. Once the new loop was laid out, more than twenty volunteers made quick work of final pruning, raking, log piling, and ramp building. The ramp gets riders to the topside of a 39-foot-long red oak log. What happens next is up to you. City workers ripped a narrow flat top on this beauty, which now separates the men from the boys and the women from girls—the boys and girls can do it.

A few mini-bridges will still be needed to keep us from sinking into the black bogs of spring, one hillside switch-back needs sculpting, and at least one long, winding, and banked bridge is planned over a seasonal pond which bakes to a summer mud-flat—but lots of people are having a great time riding it now.

The new loop can be accessed from the South Loop or from the small parking area off Eastman Road in the southeast corner of the park. As of this writing, it is not yet included on the map posted on the MMBA website. If you need a guide, park at the main lot on Monroe and act real friendly. Midland often has periods in early winter when the ground is frozen but there is little snow cover—the winter riding can be excellent. And, when the snow comes, bring your sleds and cross-country skis.

Just a note to say thank you to all who helped to complete the new loop. We've collectively put something like 150 volunteer hours into the project.

New Trail new CMU

A student group at Central Michigan University has gotten permission to build singletrack at Deerfield Park in Isabella County. This is actually a research project on the effects of mountain biking and proper trail maintenance. Naturally they've asked the MMBA for help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact either Gwen Bernthal (gbernth@hotmai.com or 989 714-3104) or Kevin Bouck (northeast@mmba.org). Gwen's group plans to meet in early 2004 to kick off the project.

Northern Chapter News

This year flew by. Here we are at the last issue of the BRB for 2003. I am supposed to get all of our accomplishments into two paragraphs to save space for other chapter presidents to brag about their chapter accomplishments. Here goes:

I visited dozens of trails in my chapter area and have been able to map and digitally document the trails I visited. Look for maps and photos on our chapter web site before too long. I am still trying to figure out the software that makes this "easy". Of the trails I visited and rode, I would say, without question, the best trail from an "out there" standpoint is the High Country Pathway. Other notable trails are Hanson Hills, VASA Singletrack and portions of the North Country Trail in the U.P. near Brevort Lake, along U.S. 2.



N. Chapter members at Big M.

We held several very successful trail days and attended many different festivals, events and bike races throughout our area to promote the MMBA. I had a great year this year as your northern chapter president. Everyone I met was happy to see a representative from our organization. They were all very supportive and agreed we have an important mission that continually needs work. From the tip of Copper Harbor down to the Big M, I want to say thank you for all of your support and enthusiasm for the MMBA and what we are trying to do. Stay tuned for more cool things to take place in your northern chapter next year. Think bikes and fun!

Ride On! Eric Isaacsen

I have some very sad news. Harold Ward, our past treasurer, has passed away Saturday, October 4, 2003. He died of brain cancer; he was seventy (70) years old. Some of you worked side by side with Harold selling hotdogs, raffle tickets, working on the trail or riding your bike. Harold was a really cool, dedicated rider who logged hundreds of miles weekly riding either his road bike or his mountain bike. He was one of the original trail workers on Aspen Park Singletrack. His wife Margaret, told me that Harold loved being with us and working with the MMBA. We made him feel young and invigorated again. Harold will be missed by everyone who rides a bike. He set a new standard for all of us to reach for. Many thanks to you Harold.

Southwest Chapter News

It is hard to believe that soon enough we shall be riding short-cuts across frozen lakes, linking up trail segments never possible in summer. Oh, those bruised hips and elbows; I hope the right amount of frozen snow gives us traction. Don't you just hate it when you bike squirts out from under with no warning and the bony parts of your body crash hard against the ice? January 2003 the Southwest Chapter held an event that was so

much fun that the people missing out are already asking about 2004. What we did was to have a winter carnival on a frozen lake. We had food and a warming fire. We had oval track mountain bike races. We had closed course racing. We fished through the ice, skied cross country, snow shoed, we towed each other behind a snow vehicle, and we ice skated. I think we'll add snow golf this year. Such an event cannot be planned very far in advance because of Michigan's unpredictable weather. What we did was to tell participants what was coming and give short notice once favorable weather was forecast. In 2003 we had a comfortable temperature in the mid twenties by lunch time and even though the sun was hiding in the clouds no one complained. Near calm conditions made things outdoors quite comfortable. Perhaps you and your chapter or riding buddies ought to plan a winter carnival of your own.

If you are planning on traveling to West Michigan for a trail ride, check ahead for snow depth. Local and lake effect snow storms can bury trails on the left coast, while Lansing and east may have bare ground.

Mark your calendar! Cathy's New Years Day Ride is on January first at 10:00 AM at the Fort Custer Trailhead. If snow is too deep we will snow shoe or XC ski instead of cycling.

Another mark your calendar! If snow conditions permit, MUSH will hold a two day dog sled race at the Fort Custer Recreation Area on January 3 and 4, 2004. No charge to spectators.

Don't put it off! Order the upgrades you need and get your fork in for service early. Support your local bike shop. These unsung hero's aren't as busy in winter months and have ample time to tweak your bike and prepare you for trouble free cycling next summer.

Daryl says, "Winter is your reward for suffering through mosquito bites, bee stings, sun burn, poison ivy, and the sweaty hot days of summer".

Holly/Flint Chapter News

Hello everyone, here at the tail end of the year there's a bit of catching up to do.

News this fall: the Revolution Cycling Club has made a donation to the Holly/Flint chapter to support new trail development, trail maintenance, and improving riding opportunities in the area. They have also presented several exciting opportunities for the chapter to take part in some of the possible trail opportunities that their club is pursuing at Seven Lakes and Grand Blanc. Thanks for the donation and we look forward to working with such an enthusiastic group. Drop by their web site to check them out at: www.revolutioncyclingclub.com If you're interested in helping to pursue the trail opportunities at Seven Lakes or Grand Blanc drop me a note at hollyflint@mmba.org. Elsewhere in donation news, Wright and Philip's donated Extenda Arm Pick Sticks for our road cleanup, these made the task much easier during the fall cleanup when the club picked up 20 bags of trash from along Grange Hall. Thanks to Shawn Hamilton for obtaining that donation. The pick sticks made the job much easier.

The Bob trailer the chapter purchased at last year's swap meet saw duty during the initial chain saw tree removal days. Mark Weingartz said towing the trailer on Gruber's was a really good



Team Revolution.

workout. Ride leader Ken Foss lead the annual fall Cider ride. We followed a new route of Ken's design out to Deihl's orchard for a nice 24 mile round trip. Ken also instituted Wednesday night Rides at Holdridge. If you're interested in riding Holdridge on Wednesday nights with Ken next ride season, watch the calendar for ride postings and watch here for more information when we get closer to that season.

Rick Jerrell once more reserved the Davison location for the MMBA annual meeting Holly/Flint will once more be setting up and tearing down for the meeting. Come on out and give a hand, the more the merrier (and quicker!) Setup will start Saturday afternoon. Previous years have seen the Holly/Flint chapter taking care of the cash box for the swap meet too; let me know if you're up for that duty this year. Teardown will follow the meeting directly.

Winter is a time of reflection and our chapter is at a crossroads. I'm pondering how to get back to the active support that we had a few years back. I realize that a person's activity within a club ebbs and flows. Some years it just works out that lots of people can come out on the days we've selected for trail days. Some years they can't. People like helping with projects such as laying new trail, building bridges on Gruber's, building the shelter at the trailhead, or even laying out the corduroy road in the mucky spots. That's understandable. We'll have a bit more of the exciting stuff to do in the coming year. Our trail is becoming more popular, more used, and more worn. There are places where Holdridge is in need of some heavy work to reroute bad sections. Our new trail coordinator for Holdridge is Tony Klien, he has some great ideas for projects to improve the trail.

There's also the excitement of possible new trails in Grand Ledge and at Seven Lakes. As a club we can work on all these opportunities, but we need to back up the initial groundwork with hard work, and if the chapter isn't interested in pursuing these opportunities, you've got to let me know. You'll be seeing a newsletter soon with next year's trail maintenance dates for Holdridge, CPS information, and a questionnaire about possible activities and opportunities presented to the club. If you have anything else you'd like to address, drop me a line at hollyflint@mmba.org.

Happy Holidays, Mary Ann.



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Please send corrections to BRB@MMBA.ORG or call (248) 349-1937

A Beautiful Day to Ride - Continued from page 14

"Do they eat mountain bikers?" we giggle, now really sounding like fudgies.

"Grab yer leg?"

"Like red bikes?"

"Naw, they usually run, but you do have to watch for 'em."

We will, I gar-on-tee you we will. As we ride off onto the trail, my front tire is nearly rubbing Ross' rear. We stick together for the first mile or so, wishing we had a bike-bell, a whistle, and some sleigh bells even.

"See anything up there Ross?" - "Nope"

Well, we finished our morning ride in just under four hours, arriving somehow unfulfilled and somehow relieved - we hadn't

seen one bear, though we sure smelled 'em - and saw their trail marker. Maybe next time.

A great ride, an awesome trail on a beautiful morning, it's just wonderful to be alive.

Check out Dennis' website at
<http://www.fixedgaregallery.com/>



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F.Y.I

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Winter ride at Pontiac Lake that morning!**

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Contribute!

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Photo guidelines: Make sure photos are in focus, the subject is fairly close and they are interesting. Also try to make sure faces are lit well. Email photos to bryan@bryanmitchell.com. Keep the files large. Try to send sizes of at least 5X7 at a resolution of 300ppi. (2000X2000 pixels and a file size of at least 2 mb) Email photos as JPEG attachments and don't imbed them in documents like Microsoft Word. (make sure they have .jpg at the end of the file name).

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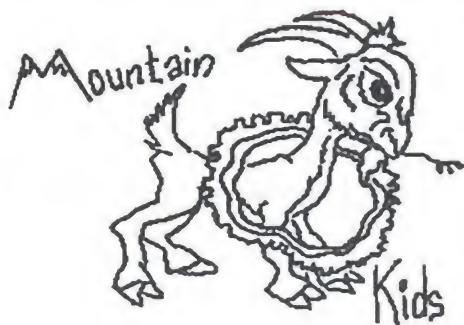
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MOUNTAIN KIDS CORNER

This summer is going to be a busy season for Mountain Kids. The program has seen incredible growth in the amount of kids that will be serviced by the program. Below are dates for Mountain Kids Events this summer!

Sarah Manning-Mountain Kids Program Director

The Mountain Kids program had a very busy spring and summer. We provided mountain biking opportunities to kids all over the state of Michigan. Some notable events included:

MSU 4-H Exploration Days- This was a three day class held at Michigan State University in Lansing. We met with the kids each day for three days. For the first day we talked a little about mountain biking as well as riding safely on the roads. We then took a ride on the Lansing River trail as well as through campus. On the second day we spent a whole day at Burchfield checking out the trails. The kids even got to try out a couple of the stunts, Hansen's and Annie's Garden. They loved riding out at Burchfield. The last day of the class, we took another ride around campus and then bought some ice cream. This event was so much fun for the participants and the volunteers. I want to give a special thanks to Harv Seeley, Kurt Stepnitz and the other volunteers for showing me around campus as well as Burchfield; otherwise I think there would've been myself and fifteen kids still wandering around campus trying to find our way back to the dormitories.

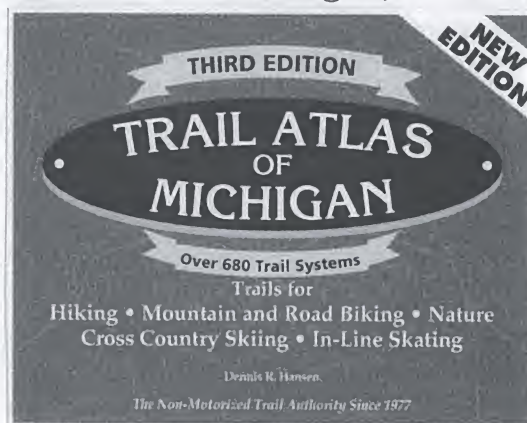
Children's Home of Detroit- In July eight kids from the Children's Home of Detroit -Warren campus went on a mountain bike adventure at Stony Creek Metropark. We spent a little bit of time talking about bike safety and techniques for riding mountain bike trails; then we went out on a ride. They seemed to have a great time checking out the two track as well as some of the singletrack at Stony. It was a nice getaway for them.

Back Alley Bikes, Detroit, Michigan. In August four kids from Back Alley Bikes got to check out the Mountain bike trails at Island Lake State Recreation Area. These kids participate in an earn-a-bike program, where they spend time working on a bike and then they get to take it home with them. The participants enjoyed their time out on the trails. They were always encouraging each other to go faster or to make it up that next hill. After they rode, we spent some time eating hot dogs, potato chips and pop. I would like to give a special thank you to Roll Models for donating water bottles to the Mountain Kids program.

If you are interested in scheduling a Mountain Kids event next spring or summer please send an e-mail to me. Thanks to everyone that helped out at a Mountain Kids event this past spring and summer. If you would like to volunteer for events next summer please send an e-mail to mountainkids@mmba.org or stop by the mountain kids booth at the annual meeting and I will keep you abreast of upcoming events. I hope to see you out on the trails once the weather warms up.

Sarah Manning - Mountain Kids Director
mountainkids@mmba.org

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